

Doc is in: Emrick not slowing down in his dream job

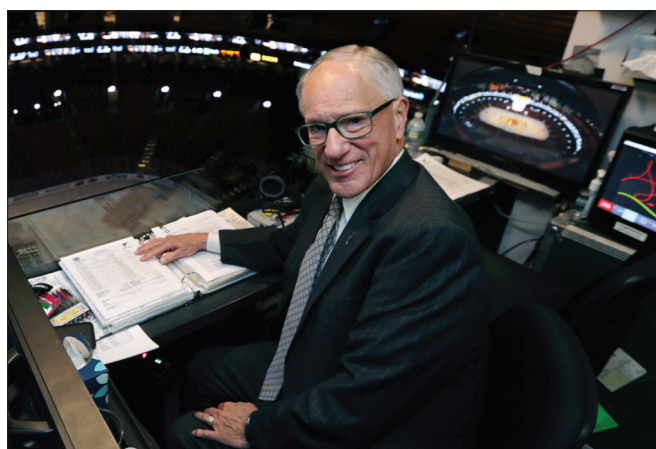
By STEPHEN WHYNO
Associated Press

BOSTON — The Boston Bruins and St. Louis Blues’ morning skates are over and a handful of broadcasters have taken the ice to re-enact a play from this bruising Stanley Cup Final.

In the otherwise empty stands is a singular figure having a good chuckle at the retired players doing their best to go over the Xs and Os.

But Mike Emrick doesn’t sit still for long. It’s a rare moment of pause for a man seemingly always in motion. A car comes to take him back to his hotel seven hours before Game 2 so he can get a quick change of clothes for his on-air work. Then it’s back to work.

The man known as “Doc” because he has a doctorate in broadcasting is working the 21st Stanley Cup Final of his illustrious career. He has been honored by the Hockey Hall of Fame and is the voice of the sport in America, a rapid-fire storyteller who is beloved from the Shark Tank to Madison Square Garden. Colleague Kenny Albert calls him the Vin Scully of hockey,



AP Photo/Charles Krupa, File

In this May 29, 2019, file photo, NBC hockey broadcaster Mike Emrick poses for a photo while preparing to call Game 2 of the NHL hockey Stanley Cup Final between the St. Louis Blues and the Boston Bruins in Boston.

and the admiration level in hockey circles is just as great.

At 72, still calling games on the NHL’s biggest stage, Emrick is in his prime and showing no signs of slowing down or stepping away from broadcasting the fastest game on ice.

“I really wanted to do it from the time I saw my first game, but a lot of people really want to do something and they don’t get to,” Emrick said. “When you have a job like that, you’re never working the rest of your life. So it’s been 46

years. I don’t know when it’ll end. God only knows.”

Emrick is so enthusiastic on the air during games that New York Rangers president John Davidson wonders when his former broadcast partner is going to come up for air. Not during the most important time of year for Emrick. This love affair goes back a ways, to when he was a kid sitting at Fort Wayne (Indiana) Komets games, practicing calls in the corner on Wednesday afternoons with his reel-to-reel, battery-operated tape recorder from the music

store his dad owned. Down time for Emrick comes mostly in the summer when he and Joyce, his wife of almost 41 years, go on camping trips to small towns, mostly in Michigan or visit his brother and stepmother who still live in his Indiana hometown. He does like to watch his beloved Pittsburgh Pirates. During the season, they like going to lunch and at night sit together in the living room with their two dogs Joybells and Liberty — he’s watching hockey and she’s watching veterinarian shows.

“That’s a nice night for us,” Emrick says. “It’s probably not a life many people would find really exciting, but we enjoy it.”

Joyce and dogs are the centerpieces of Emrick’s universe that has plenty of room for the people who consider themselves lucky to call him a friend. That includes broadcast partners of various vintages — Eddie Olczyk, Glenn “Chico” Resch, Bill Clement and Davidson. He has helped many through difficult times by listening or simply lighting a candle in church for them.

“Just the support part

of it from Doc is what is the most important thing,” said Olczyk, who leaned on Emrick when he was battling cancer. “He doesn’t even have to say anything, but if you just get a text or a picture or whatever, you know he’s thinking about you. Having been through it himself, that’s what friends do. I look at Doc as a friend.”

Emrick is 28 years removed from prostate cancer. He got the call from Hershey Medical Center on a Friday night while he was on the road in Montreal doing play by play for the Philadelphia Flyers. He waited two days to tell Joyce in person — saying she was going to need to be a rock because he didn’t know what to expect — but right away he told Clement, who considers Emrick as close as a brother.

Clement’s admiration for Emrick as a broadcaster rivals only that for Doc the human being.

“When you listen to him on the air or see him on the air, he’s a real person,” Clement said. “He’s a real person with an unbelievable gift that he grew himself to describe and to use the English language.”

Ah yes, Emrick’s style. Hockey moves fast and all of its play-by-play announcers need to keep up. Doc loves his verbs — one fan famously counted 153 used in one game — and finding fun or interesting ways to describe the action. A pass isn’t just a pass to Emrick — the puck was squibbed, rifled, wanded, even soccered and the puck isn’t just stopped by a goaltender, it’s waffleboarded, gloved or stuck away. Goals usually get a big “And he scorrrrrrrrrrrres!” from Emrick to match the moment and his deep knowledge of the game allows him to get just as excited by the little things that can turn a game — a puck ringing off a post, an oh-so-close pass, a jaw-dropping save.

“Doc pushes himself to reinvent things and to be the best and to try new things and be different and yet not be a caricature,” Clement said.

Never is he off the rails. No less an admirer than the late Frank DeFord described Emrick as “a connoisseur” whose eloquence is somehow the perfect balance for the frantic, scrambling nature of hockey.

Baseball: Ashlee Hodgen Memorial Tournament to return for its fourth year



Staff photo by Kathy Aney, File

Hodgen Distributing’s Kyle Field starts a slide into second base as the ball passes him during the first game of last year’s Ashlee Hodgen Memorial Tournament against Baker.

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lee Hodgen Scholarship fund — an award given to selected Pendleton baseball and softball athletes, and one student from Echo High School every year.

“We want to keep her name alive,” Zander said. “She did a lot for Pendleton baseball.”

This year is Mike Hodgen’s 44th as an assistant coach for Hodgen Distributing, and Zander’s 19th. Wes Armstrong is entering his fourth season as the team’s head coach.

Several players on the Hodgen Distributing roster are coming off a historic season on Pendleton’s varsity team. The Bucks finished with an 18-9 overall record and a slew of accomplishments, including taking the top spot in the Intermountain Conference and playing in the 5A state championship game in Keizer, where they fell 11-4 to the Central Panthers. It was their first title game appearance since 1992.

And for those players, summer ball is a means to improve their game before the next varsity season rolls around.

“For myself and most of my team, summer ball is a way to work on stuff that we didn’t get to polish (with the Bucks),” said Field, Pendleton’s sophomore third baseman. “I want to work on my pitching. I feel like that could be a strong suit of mine if I keep working at it.”

Hodgen Distributing will kick off their season with a tournament game against the La Grande Legacy Legends on Friday at 3:30 p.m. at Bob White Field. On Saturday, they’ll face Clark County’s Hammertime at 12:30 p.m., followed by a game against Hermiston at 8 p.m.

From then on, the traveling tournament team will play a game every weekend until July 18.

“We’ve got a lot of hard chargers out here,” Field said of his summer team. “These kids just want to play ball. That’s why they’re here.”

All-State: Players selected

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Special District 5 selection at pitcher and as an infielder. Corvarubia was a first-team outfielder.

Henrichs finished the season with a 1.42 ERA, striking out 89 and walking just 20 in 53 innings of work. His record was 10-0. He also hit .478, including 12 doubles and 29 RBIs. He also led the team with 25 stolen bases.

Covarrubia, the Knights’ lead-off hitter, had a .364 batting average. He drove in 15 runs, scored 33 runs, and had 21 stolen bases.

The TigerScots sent four players to the series in 2014, and catcher Vince Roff was the last to go in 2016.

Sater is a first-team all-league selection for Special District 7, and was named to the 2A/1A all-state third team.

He hit .500, with 41 hits, 22 RBIs and 28 runs scored. He also had 12 stolen bases and just two errors.

“He was a three-year starter for us,” W-M coach Corey Thacker said. “He worked his tail off to get where he’s at. I was more than happy with his leadership of the team this season.”

NCAA DIVISION I BASEBALL REGIONALS GLANCE

All Times PDT
Double Elimination; x-if necessary
At Monongalia County Ballpark Morgantown, W.Va.

Friday, May 31

Duke 8, Texas A&M 5

West Virginia 6, Fordham 2

Saturday, June 1

Texas A&M 11, Fordham 2, Fordham eliminated

Duke 4, West Virginia 0

Sunday, June 2

Texas A&M 11, West Virginia 10, WVU eliminated

Duke 4, Texas A&M 1, Duke advances

At Boshamer Stadium Chapel Hill, N.C.

Friday, May 31

North Carolina 7, UNC Wilmington 6

Liberty 6, Tennessee 1

Saturday, June 1

Tennessee 10, UNC Wilmington 3, UNCW eliminated

North Carolina 16, Liberty 1

Sunday, June 2

Tennessee 6, Liberty 5, 10 innings, Liberty eliminated

North Carolina 5, Tennessee 2, UNC advances

At Clarke-LeClair Stadium Greenville, N.C.

Saturday, June 1

Campbell 5, N.C. State 4

Quinnipiac 5, East Carolina 4

Sunday, June 2

East Carolina 9, N.C. State 2, NCSU eliminated

Campbell 9, Quinnipiac 8

East Carolina 13, Quinnipiac 2, Quinnipiac eliminated

Monday, June 3

East Carolina 10, Campbell 3

East Carolina 12, Campbell 3, East Carolina advances

At Jim Patterson Stadium Louisville, Ky.

Friday, May 31

Illinois State 8, Indiana 7

Louisville 5, UIC 3

Saturday, June 1

Indiana 9, UIC 5, UIC eliminated

Illinois State 4, Louisville 2

Sunday, June 2

Louisville 9, Indiana 7, IU eliminated

Louisville 11, Illinois State 2

Monday, June 3

Louisville 4, Illinois State 3, Louisville advances

At Foley Field Athens, Ga.

Friday, May 31

Florida State 13, FAU 7

Georgia 13, Mercer 3

Saturday, June 1

FAU 10, Mercer 6, Mercer eliminated

Florida State 12, Georgia 3

Sunday, June 2

Georgia 13, FAU 0, FAU eliminated

Florida State 10, Georgia 1, FSU advances

At Russ Chandler Stadium Atlanta

Friday, May 31

Auburn 16, Coastal Carolina 7

Georgia Tech 13, Florida A&M 2

Saturday, June 1

Coastal Carolina 9, Florida A&M 4, FAMU eliminated

Auburn 6, Georgia Tech 5

Sunday, June 2

Georgia Tech 10, Coastal Carolina 8, CCU eliminated

Auburn 4, Georgia Tech 1, Auburn advances

At Hawkins Field Nashville, Tenn.

Friday, May 31

Indiana State 6, McNeese 5

Vanderbilt 8, Ohio State 2

Saturday, June 1

Ohio State 9, McNeese 8, 13 innings, McNeese eliminated

Vanderbilt 8, Indiana State 5

Sunday, June 2

Indiana State 10, Ohio State 5, OSU eliminated

Vanderbilt 12, Indiana State 1, Vanderbilt advances

At Dudy Noble Field Starkville, Miss.

Friday, May 31

Mississippi State 11, Southern 6

Central Michigan 6, Miami 5

Saturday, June 1

Miami 12, Southern 2, SU eliminated

Mississippi State 7, Central Michigan 2

Sunday, June 2

Miami 18, Central Michigan 3, Michigan eliminated

Mississippi State 5, Miami 2, MSU advances

At Swayze Field Oxford, Miss.

Friday, May 31

Clemson 8, Illinois 4

Mississippi 16, Jacksonville State 2

Saturday, June 1

Jacksonville State 7, Illinois 5, Illinois eliminated

Mississippi 6, Clemson 1

Sunday, June 2

Jacksonville State 9, Clemson 2, Clemson eliminated

Mississippi 19, Jacksonville State 4, Ole Miss advances

At Baum Stadium Fayetteville, Ark.

Friday, May 31

Arkansas 11, CCSU 5

TCU 13, California 2

Saturday, June 1

CCSU 7, California 4, Cal eliminated

Arkansas 3, TCU 1

Sunday, June 2

TCU 9, CCSU 5, CCSU eliminated

Arkansas 6, TCU 0, Arkansas advances

At Alex Box Stadium Baton Rouge, La.

Friday, May 31

Southern Miss. 15, Arizona State 3

LSU 17, Stony Brook 3

SCOREBOARD

Saturday, June 1

Arizona State 13, Stony Brook 5, SBU eliminated

Sunday, June 2

LSU 8, Southern Miss. 4

Sunday, June 2

Southern Miss. 13, Arizona State 12, ASU eliminated

LSU 6, Southern Miss. 4, LSU advances

At Chickasaw Bricktown Ballpark Oklahoma City

Friday, May 31

Nebraska 8, UConn 5

Oklahoma State 2, Harvard 0

Saturday, June 1

UConn 10, Harvard 2, Harvard eliminated

Oklahoma State 6, Nebraska 5

Sunday, June 2

UConn 16, Nebraska 1, Nebraska eliminated

UConn 5, Oklahoma State 2

Monday, June 3

Oklahoma State 3, UConn 1, OSU advances

At Rip Griffin Park Lubbock, Texas

Friday, May 31

Texas Tech 11, Army 2

Dallas Baptist 11, Florida 8

Saturday, June 1

Florida 13, Army 5, Army eliminated

Texas Tech 3, Dallas Baptist 2

Sunday, June 2

Dallas Baptist 9, Florida 8, Florida eliminated

Texas Tech 3, Dallas Baptist 0, Texas Tech advances

At Goss Stadium Corvallis, Ore.

Friday, May 31

Michigan 6, Creighton 0

Cincinnati 7, Oregon State 6

Saturday, June 1

Creighton 4, Oregon State 1, OSU eliminated

Michigan 10, Cincinnati 4

Sunday, June 2

Creighton 6, Cincinnati 1, Cincinnati eliminated

Creighton 11, Michigan 7

Monday, June 3

Michigan 17, Creighton 6, Michigan advances

At Sunken Diamond Stanford, Calif.

Friday, May 31

Stanford 11, Sacramento State 0

Fresno State 9, UC Santa Barbara 2

Loyola Marymount 3, Baylor 1

UCLA 5, Omaha 2

Saturday, June 1

Baylor 24, Omaha 6, Omaha eliminated

Loyola Marymount 3, UCLA 2

Sunday, June 2

UCLA 11, Baylor 6, Baylor eliminated

UCLA 6, Loyola Marymount 1

Monday, June 3

Game 7 — Loyola Marymount (34-24) vs. UCLA (50-9), 7 p.m.

AMERICAN LEAGUE

All Times PDT

East

New York 38 22 .633

Tampa Bay 36 23 .610

Boston 32 29 .525

Toronto 23 38 .377

Baltimore 19 41 .317

Central

Minnesota 40 20 .667

Cleveland 31 30 .508

Chicago 29 32 .475

Detroit 23 35 .397

Kansas City 19 42 .311

West

Houston 42 20 .677

Texas 30 28 .517

Oakland 30 30 .500

Los Angeles 29 32 .475

Seattle 25 39 .391

Wednesday's Games

Washington 6, Chicago White Sox 4

Toronto 11, N.Y. Yankees 7

Cleveland 9, Minnesota 7

Tampa Bay 4, Detroit 0

Boston 8, Kansas City 0

Seattle 14, Houston 1

Thursday's Games

Tampa Bay (Stanek 0-1) at Detroit (Norris 3-2), 10:15 a.m.